



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Soybean aphids found in four Kansas counties

TOPEKA — The Kansas Department of Agriculture announced today that soybean aphids were detected in soybean fields in Geary, Douglas, Franklin and Miami counties last week and producers are encouraged to scout their fields for this new pest.

The pest was discovered during routine plant pest survey and detection activities, which are part of an ongoing effort to monitor for the presence and distribution of plant pests in the state.

“The aphids we found appear to be distributed in a line from just south of Kansas City to Junction City, so we suspect they were blown in from western Missouri” said Tom Sim, manager of the department’s plant protection and weed control program. “We haven’t encountered anything to suggest a severe infestation, but we’re watching this very closely.”

The soybean aphid was first found in the United States in 2000 in Wisconsin, and it has since been found in other Midwestern states. It was detected just east of Kansas City, Mo., last fall, so its appearance in Kansas in 2002 was expected.

The soybean aphid is a small, yellow aphid with black ‘tailpipes,’ or cornicles, at the tip of its abdomen. Infestations that peak during the bloom stage of soybean can stunt the plants so fewer pods and seeds develop. Leaves may be distorted and turn yellow, and plant parts may become covered with a dark, sooty mold that grows on the honeydew, or waste, released by the aphids.

In addition to feeding damage done by these aphids, they can transmit viruses, including alfalfa mosaic, soybean mosaic, bean yellow mosaic, peanut mottle, peanut stunt and peanut stripe. Plants infected with a virus may have yellow or green mottled leaves, distorted leaves, deformed pods, fewer pods, or discolored seed.

Baseline economic impact data on soybean aphid infestations are not yet established. In Asia, where it is a significant pest that damages plants both directly and indirectly, yield loss has been reported as low as 2.7 percent and as high as 51.8 percent.

Soybean producers who want more information about the aphid, or who suspect the aphid may be present in their fields, should contact their county extension agent.

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On the web:

www.oznet.ksu.edu/entomology/extension/InsectInfo/Soybeanaphid.htm

www.accesskansas.org/kda